



2023 OFFICERS

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RIMS
Chicago Chapter

Carnell Jones
President

Katie Rabs
Vice President

Gail Bartholomew
Secretary

Seung Yoo
Treasurer

Theresa Severson
Past President

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and Happy New Year!

As I start my second year as President of the Chicago Chapter, I am increasingly proud of all the work that our chapter has done for the Risk Management and Insurance community and hope this year's efforts only continue down that track. As a leading chapter in our global organization, our volunteer members have continued to provide an example of what great collaboration, cooperation, and idea-sharing can produce.

Thinking back to 2022, we made great strides in offering opportunities for our members to connect and learn from each other. Additionally, our increased focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the industry is something that I am personally proud of. Our ongoing support of the next generation of Risk and Insurance professionals through our scholarships for college students and sponsorship of Chicago Rising Risk Professionals will only help our industry be better prepared for emerging challenges.

As it comes to the start of 2023, we are positioning ourselves to walk lock step with Global RIMS to improve offerings and increase the value of membership while addressing technological and structural needs that will only make our organization stronger for years to come. In that vein, we welcome the newly appointed RIMS CEO, Gary LaBranche (who is also a Chicagoland resident and chapter member) and look forward to supporting his priority initiatives. The future is truly bright for our chapter and your engagement will only make us stronger!

We hope to see you at this month's Holiday party and at a variety of other events that will be scheduled throughout the year. Please continue to look out for our newsletter and check the website for our offerings for 2023.

Cheers!


January 10: Chicago RIMS Chapter Annual Meeting

Where: Virtually (Zoom)

Time: 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Registration is Open
January 19: Chicago RIMS Annual Holiday Party

Where: Untitled Supper Club - 111 W. Kinzie, Chicago, IL 60654

Time: 4:30PM - 7:30PM

Registration is Open

\$10 Chicago RIMS Members; \$30 Non-Member/Risk Manger;

\$60 Non-Member/Associate

Save the Date: Sept 14: Chicagoland Risk Forum

Where: The Old Post Office (Downtown Chicago)

What: Educational Sessions, Risk Management Panels and Roundtables

More Details will be coming in early-Spring

Reach out to Andy Adams (andrew.adams@kraftheinz.com) or Robert Benvenuto (robert.benvenuto@hubinternational.com) to volunteer for planning this year's Chicagoland Risk Forum

Save the Date: Sept 2023: Chicago RIMS Golf Outing

Where: Arrowhead Golf Club (Wheaton)

What: Golf Tournament, Short/Long Game Clinics, Cocktail Hour, Raffle, etc.

More Details will be coming in late-Spring

If you are interested in sponsoring, volunteering at the Golf Outing or wish to be on the Golf Committee, please reach out to Jennifer Pack at jennifer.pack@hyatt.com

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**


GET TO KNOW YOUR 2023 BOARD MEMBERS



AWARDS & HONORS

We are happy to announce that Theresa Severson was chosen by the Chapter as a nominee for Part I of the Risk Manager of the Year Award. The Part I nomination was reviewed by RIMS and she has been chosen to move on to the next phase of the decision process.

We are also pleased to announce these additional award nominees from the Chicago Chapter:

- Judy Silverman for the Ron Judd- Heart of RIMS Award
- Frankie York for the Rising Star Award

Congratulations to Theresa, Judy and Frankie for their well-deserved nominations!

Winners will be announced at the RIMS RISKWORLD conference in Atlanta April 30- May 3, 2023.

Education

The Education Committee continues to outreach to local risk management and insurance school programs to provide educational and mentorship resources. St. Louis Cardinal's Director of Risk Management Rex Carter and the Chicago Cubs' Manager of Risk Management Dino Stiris, CRM had the opportunity to travel to Bloomington, Illinois on December 1 and speak to the students at Illinois State University.

We're looking forward to the upcoming 2023 Chapter scholarship application review and meeting later this month and meeting with the RMI departments at local Universities to explore 2023 opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering on the 2023 Education Committee, please reach out to Ryan Fee at ryan.fee@inventrustproperties.com for more information.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Chicago RIMS D, E & I Committee is charged to build better relationships throughout the Risk Management and Insurance industry across multiple cross-sections of our population. We continue to seek out and foster partnerships with industry organizations and nonprofits to advance thought leadership that will translate to more inclusive thought and ultimately, improved outcomes for our employers, organizations, and clients. A few of those organizations include NAAIA, InRoads, POSSEE, & Invest. All of which are aimed at growing our industry with a more diverse and inclusive talent population. Global RIMS is committing more time and resources to provide local chapters with tools to standardize D,E & I practices through aligning programming, chapter goals, and outreach. Chicago RIMS initiatives are aligned with the global RIMS D,E & I Advisory Council and we are excited to share that our chapter is the leading chapter on this front. Additionally, two Chicago RIMS members (Carnell Jones, President and Denise Williamee with Steel City RE) are currently serving on the RIMS D, E & I Advisory council and will work to make sure Chicago's programming and efforts are more of an example for other global RIMS chapters to follow.

For those interested in getting involved in the Chicago RIMS D, E and I Committee, collaborating on providing content, and helping us lead local initiatives, please reach out to Steve Adamjee (steve.adamjee@usi.com) and Carnell Jones (carnellrjones@gmail.com) for more information.



SHOUTOUT GARY LABRANCHE CEO RIMS



Quick Facts to know about Gary

Go-to karaoke song: "Tequila" by The Champs (but a huge Bruce Springsteen fan!)

What do you like to do for fun: Traveling and playing golf – poorly and enthusiastically

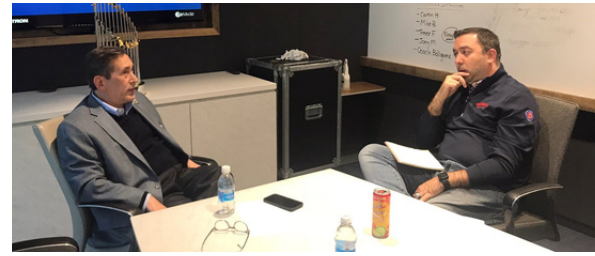
Favorite thing about Chicago: The great diversity, openness and friendliness of the city. I love the museums and the art and culture and people.

What would you like your legacy to be? I would like to be remembered as a kind person, a just person, somebody that loved his family and treated other people politely and humanely. I think we have a shortage for that generally these days.

While he says people are not usually that interested in him, we were fortunate enough to have newly appointed CEO of RIMS, Gary LaBranche, join us for a quick conversation to learn more about him, his journey to RIMS and what he envisions for the organization as it grows and evolves. Find the story on the following page.



A sit-down with
**Gary
 LaBranche**



by: Frankie York and Dino Stiris

Growing up in Ohio and attending The Ohio State University, Gary had an immediate pull to politics growing up, but as he listened to different career paths of individuals he couldn't understand the pull. It started to come together for Gary while he was working at the Ohio Legislature.

"Meanwhile, I was working at the Ohio Legislature, and I bump into all these association people, executive directors, or CEOs of the Ohio Society Manufacturers, or Wild Medical Association, or whatever it might be, and watched them and got to know some of them, and what I found interesting when I got to know them and talk to them is when they talked about their job, they would talk about how diverse the jobs were, that they would do public relations...public speaking, they would work on budgets, they'd do education, run conventions, they had staffs, they did lobbying and public policy. And for my febrile mind, to me, that was interesting with the intellectual diversity of the whole job."

The rest they say is history, as Gary continued to pursue different opportunities in the field during and after college.

"I am your friendly neighborhood lobbyist. I do get involved in public policy... I wouldn't say I'm the world's greatest lobbyist, but it's a part of the job and I've had some serious successes in public policy."

When he is not advocating on the hill, Gary enjoys reading, especially American History, and can be found at any particular time engrossed in 3 or 4 books.

"I am a voracious, avid reader. I've always been an avid reader... I always say read what you love. Read what makes your heart sing. Read. Read. Read"

But when he is not reading books, he is writing some of his own, some in association management textbooks, and more recently, about succession planning.

"When I was CEO of the Association for Corporate Growth here in downtown Chicago. My board said, Gary, you know, you're a great guy, and we just signed a new contract with you, and we're not concerned about your dying, but we want a succession plan...Nobody wants to do a recession plan, right? First you have to address your own mortality or your own demise in some way."

But when he began searching, he came up short.

"I could find literally almost nothing and I reached out to dozens and dozens of association CEO friends and to people like that, and some people had a little, little piece of this, little piece of that, and I collected all that, but most everybody said, I don't have one. My board wants me to do one, so if you find one, send it along."

And after a few years of sitting on the idea, he wrote it.

"I talked to ASA, the American Society of Association executives, and pitched them on the book. And so I wrote the Association CEO Succession Planning tool kit. All my proceeds, vast as they are, go to the ASA Research Foundation. So it's not like a JR Tolkien thing, just, but all my proceeds go to that."

After leading a successful career in other roles, Gary accepted the position to become the Society's newest Chief Executive Officer, succeeding longstanding RIMS CEO Mary Roth who announced her retirement in late-2021 after 37 years of service with RIMS, beginning in June of this year. Like other associations and societies he has worked with, Gary understands that RIMS is similar to other things in our lives.

"If you just want to show up occasionally and benefit from a little bit of networking, that's fine. If you want to give back and grow as a leader, by contributing as a volunteer, that's great. If you just want to pay dues and get some information, like your newsletter, that's okay, but do something otherwise, you're just wasting your time and money, you know. So it's like anything else in life. You only get out of it what you put into."

But while Gary understands that each of the 10,000 members of RIMS will have a different experience, he does notice a common thread among most.

"...by engaging with others, we learn about ourselves. In fact, one of my philosophers that I quote all the time, says that all true living is meeting. That we only become truly human and truly alive when we meet ourselves through the eyes and actions of another. We have to engage with other people in order to be truly alive."

During the pandemic, LaBranche empathized with the professional and cultural shift we went through as an industry.

"That concept of becoming more human, because we experience the humanity of others, is actually at the core of this association experience. That's why I think it was so hard for many of us during the pandemic, where the thing that we cherished the most, you know, we couldn't do. And it was certainly for a certified extrovert like me, sitting in a basement for two years, it was, it was a painful experience. And Zoom only takes you so far."

While we are learning new ways to get involved following the pandemic, Gary has a clear mission for RIMS members, regardless of contribution size.

"Not everybody has to be president of the board, but give a little back. One of the things that I've learned as a learner and as a teacher, is when you give back by speaking on a program, you relearn and reinforce your own learning by teaching, by sharing your experience... You're reapplying that knowledge to yourself and breaking it down in a way that is then accessible or teachable to other people. That reinforces in your own mind, your own knowledge of what that is, and that rebuilds kind of your own framework. I think that we learn so much by help, by helping others, by teaching them."

When asked about the goals of RIMS into the new year, Gary's mission is clear.

"At the end of the day, a society is only a means. It is not the end of product. The end product, in our case, is the advancement of knowledge in risk management. We want to advance risk management. That's the product and it's very easy to get caught up in all the minutia and all the stuff that can divert our attention and divert our energies, I think that's the hard part."

While looking to the future of RIMS, Gary also reflected on the reason he accepted the position as CEO and hopes to use that to continue to grow.

"RIMS is a very highly regarded organization with a tremendously successful convention... and I thought, what's the one thing that we have learned as a society over the last two years? Risk management is pretty important, right? I think we, we've changed our way of thinking, at least I have, and other people, I think, have, that risk management is not something in the back of the house. It actually has to be central to strategy... I would like to be with a profession that does something good for the world, for my last job, and the more I thought of it, the more I said to myself, risk management makes the world safer, more secure and more sustainable."

We certainly look forward to seeing and being a part of the safer, more secure and more sustainable future Gary envisions.

**INTERESTED IN
 BECOMING A MEMBER?**

Welcome!

2022 Q4 NEW MEMBERS

Darla Lana-Bradley

Lisa Rossi

Billy Showers